THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (c) Indian Missions abroad are manned by officers/staff members of the Ministry of External Affairs who are posted there against regular posts. Posting of officers is done on administrative exigencies, taking into account a variety of factors including functional skills, language specialisation, seniority, profile of previous posting and other related factors. In some Indian Missions/Posts abroad, India-based officers and staff from Ministries/Departments other than Ministry of External Affairs like Defence, Commerce, Finance, Space, Science & Technology etc. are also sent on deputation. Their numbers vary fromtime to time depending upon the requirement. Deputationists from other Ministries are selected by the parent Ministry/ Department and approved by Department of Personnel and Training and the Ministry of External Affairs. A list of officers from other Ministries/Departments on deputation to various Indian Missions/ Posts abroad is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House. While the percentage prescribed for reservation in SC, ST and minority categories is strictly followed at the recruitment stage, there is no policy of reservation in postings in Mission/Posts abroad.

Security check in Moscow

473. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the External Affairs Minister had to pass through security checks at the ceremonial lounge recently in Moscow; and

(b) if so, whether Government have raised this issued with Government of Russia?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Indo-Nepal Treaty of 1950

†474. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to reconsider the Indo-Nepal Treaty of 1950;

(b) whether Government are also contemplating to modify the Teraty of 1950; and

(c) whether Government are proposing to make identity card compulsory on the Indo-Nepal border in near future?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) No.

Indo-Bangladesh joint survey

475.SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments of India and Bangladesh have agreed to carry out joint survey of international border to resolve the decades old problem of enclaves along the International borders;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Bangladesh Government have also agreed to abide by the reports of the joint survey ;

(c) if so, whether the joint survey has been going on the full report has been received by both countries; and

(d) if so, by what time the report is likely to be implemented and Government are likely to implement the suggestions made in the report?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No.

(b) to (d) Do not airse.

Future of Indo-US nuclear deal

476. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are speaking in respect of the future of Indo-US nuclear deal in different languaes as the Hon'ble Prime Minister has reportedly told to the US President that there certain difficulties in implementing the deal;

(b) whether contracting optimist official sources on 17th October, 2007 have said that Indian-US nuclear deal would be different if Government do not move soon enough for safeguards negotiations with IAEA; and

(c) if so, the exact stand and outcome of the Indo-US nuclear deal as on date?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No.

(b) and (c) India and the USA have agreed on the text of an 'Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of India and the Government of the United States of America Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy'. The finalised text of the Agreement has received the approval of the Cabinet. As negotiated by India in the Agreement, India will complete the negotiation of an Indo-specific safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Thereafter adjustment of the guidelines of the Nulcear Suppliers Group (NSG) and approval of the US Congress for operationalisation of the agreement will be sought.

Sino-Indian border talks

477. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sino-Indian talks on the settlement of border issue were held, recently;

(b) if so, the details of the decisions taken thereat ; and

(c) the effective steps that have so far been taken by the two Governments to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). The eleventh round of Special Representatives Talks on the India-China boundary question was held on Beijing from 24 to 26 September 2007. The Special Representatives of the two countries, Mr. M.K. Narayanan, National Security Adviser and Mr. Dai Bingguo, Vice Foreign Minister held useful and positive dicussions on the framework for the settlment of the India-China boundary question. The two sides agreed that the next round of talks would be held in Beijing. The specific dates would be decided through diplomatic channels.